

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compositions based on *Helianthus longipes* root used orally in treating xerostomia, for dry mouth, increasing salivation, alleviating dry mouth, and in maintaining or improving oral hygiene; as local contact anesthetics; as a cough suppressant, and as an oral sensate-producing desirable sensations in the oropharynx. The herbal composition includes an extract from *Helianthus longipes* root and an oral carrier for the extract. A suitable amount of extract is from about 0.01 to about 10 weight percent of the overall composition. A variety of compositions include an oral carrier; preferred compositions are: 1) a gum with a solid exterior and a liquid center, both the exterior and center containing an effective amount of the extract composition; 2) a solid gum, 3) lozenges; candies, confections and 4) flavored liquid sprays and drops, and mouthwashes. The invention is further useful as an enhancer and potentiator of flavor.